

Attachment 1 - Energy Collaborative Analysis Initiative Web Forum Planning – May 22, 2007

Web Forum Goals

- Create a series of web-based discussions that will help us collaborate on energy analysis data sources, analysis methodologies and analysis tools
- Identify specific needs for additional information or additional analysis (what decision-makers are looking for);
- Identify potential areas for collaboration (ways to effectively help each other)

May Forum Overview

- **Topic:** Portfolio Analysis Methods. Presenters discussed the merits and drawbacks of a variety of methodologies for making decisions about the relative value of investment across a portfolio and the impacts on R&D. A particular emphasis was placed on portfolio methods that are most applicable in the energy sector. Participants asked questions, talked about their experiences, and shared additional information.
- **Speakers:** Paul DeCotis with NYSERDA and Thomas Jenkin with NREL

Recommended July Forum:

- **Possible dates:** July 26, 27, 30 or 31
- **Topic: Benefits estimation metrics.** Discuss analysis activities that quantitatively and qualitatively estimate energy benefits, including environmental (human and ecological), energy security and energy savings benefits (note that economic benefits will be discussed as a workshop session and will not be highlighted here). Identify information available and broadly applicable methodologies for cross-sector (cross-technology) comparisons.
- **Potential Speakers:** EPA on env. benefits, DOD on E security, CEC? EIA?

Recommended November Forum:

- **Possible dates:** Early November
- **Topic: Innovative Financing.** With the costs of conventional fuels on the rise, renewable energy technologies have become more market competitive and investors, both large and small, are being attracted to the industry in larger numbers. As a result, new entrants are investing in renewables and new business models are emerging. This web forum will highlight current issues related to renewable energy project financing in the electric power industry to identify both barriers to and opportunities for increased investment.
- **Potential Speakers:** Mid-American or Puget Sound (utility owners of wind), Babcock & Brown (merchant investors in wind), Karlynn Cory NREL

A few sample topics to consider:

- 1) **Improve regionality and transmission in electricity modeling.** Present information on coordinated effort between DOE-EIA, NREL and NETL to improve regionality and transmission representation in several models (SEDS, NEMS, etc.) and across models.
- 2) Understanding the **role of biofuels in transportation markets.** Market assessment, policy impacts, fuel availability. Technical and infrastructure implications of increased biofuels use – what will the transition look like? What will the end-state look like?
- 3) High penetration scenario **modeling/peak oil.** What might our future look like?
- 4) Others suggestions welcome and encouraged – we look forward to some new topical ideas emerging from the ECAI workshop in June.